

2014-2015

# CONNECTICUT SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

DATA BRIEF

Newtown Nexus District

PREPARED BY: GLEN MARTIN ASSOCIATES  
41 STATE STREET, SUITE 604-02  
ALBANY, NY 12207

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## INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey is the continuation of an ongoing collaborative effort between the Bureau of Special Education and the Connecticut Parent Work Group to collect information on family satisfaction and parents' involvement in their child's special education program.<sup>1</sup> The 2014-15 survey was sent to 18,634 parents of children receiving special education services, ages 3 through 21, across 56 school districts.<sup>2</sup> A total of 3,965 surveys were returned, representing a response rate of 21.3%. The survey is in its tenth year, with the 2014-15 school year marking the first year of a new three-year survey cohort cycle. The survey continues to serve as the chief instrument for collecting parent involvement data for Indicator 8 of the state's IDEA Part B State Performance Plan (SPP).<sup>3</sup>

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide survey results for the Newtown Nexus District in an easy-to-use format.<sup>4</sup> The intent is to highlight potential areas of strength for your district and areas that may need improvement. Your district's survey results, especially when used in conjunction with other data at your disposal, can provide insightful information for use in decision-making and improvement planning. A few tips for reviewing your survey data include the following:

- Use the survey delivery and response statistics to set the context of your data.
- Review the "total agreement" by survey item to get a general sense of how well your district is doing in each of the six topic areas of the survey.
- Contrast "total agreement" with "high-level agreement" in order to identify survey items where the total percentage may include a sizable lukewarm response (i.e., slightly agree).
- Examine parents' comments for areas of satisfaction, areas of concern, and suggested improvement steps.
- Consider how your district's results compare to the overall statewide results.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parent Work Group is a statewide stakeholder group that examines parent involvement data as an indicator of parent satisfaction for annual reporting to the Office of Special Education Programs.

<sup>2</sup> In the majority (n=45) of districts, surveys were sent to all parents of children receiving services. However, in 11 districts, a simple random sample of students was selected. (See Appendix B.1 for more information.)

<sup>3</sup> SPP Indicator 8 measures the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. Survey item 10 is the primary measure for this indicator.

<sup>4</sup> The 2014-15 Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey Statewide Report will be available on the Department website in early 2016.

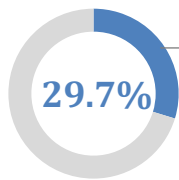
## SECTION I: SURVEY DELIVERY AND RESPONSE

In August 2015, the 2014-15 Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey was distributed to parents of children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Services Plan. Parents were mailed a survey packet, with some parents also receiving an email about the survey. All materials were available in English and Spanish, and the survey could be completed on paper or online. The survey deadline was September 18, 2015. The following graphics provide survey delivery and response statistics for the Newtown Nexus District.

### DELIVERY METHOD

Mail	471	Mail Non-Deliverable Rate	1.1% (n=5)
Email	90.7% (n=427)	Email Non-Deliverable Rate	2.1% (n=9)

### RESPONSE RATE

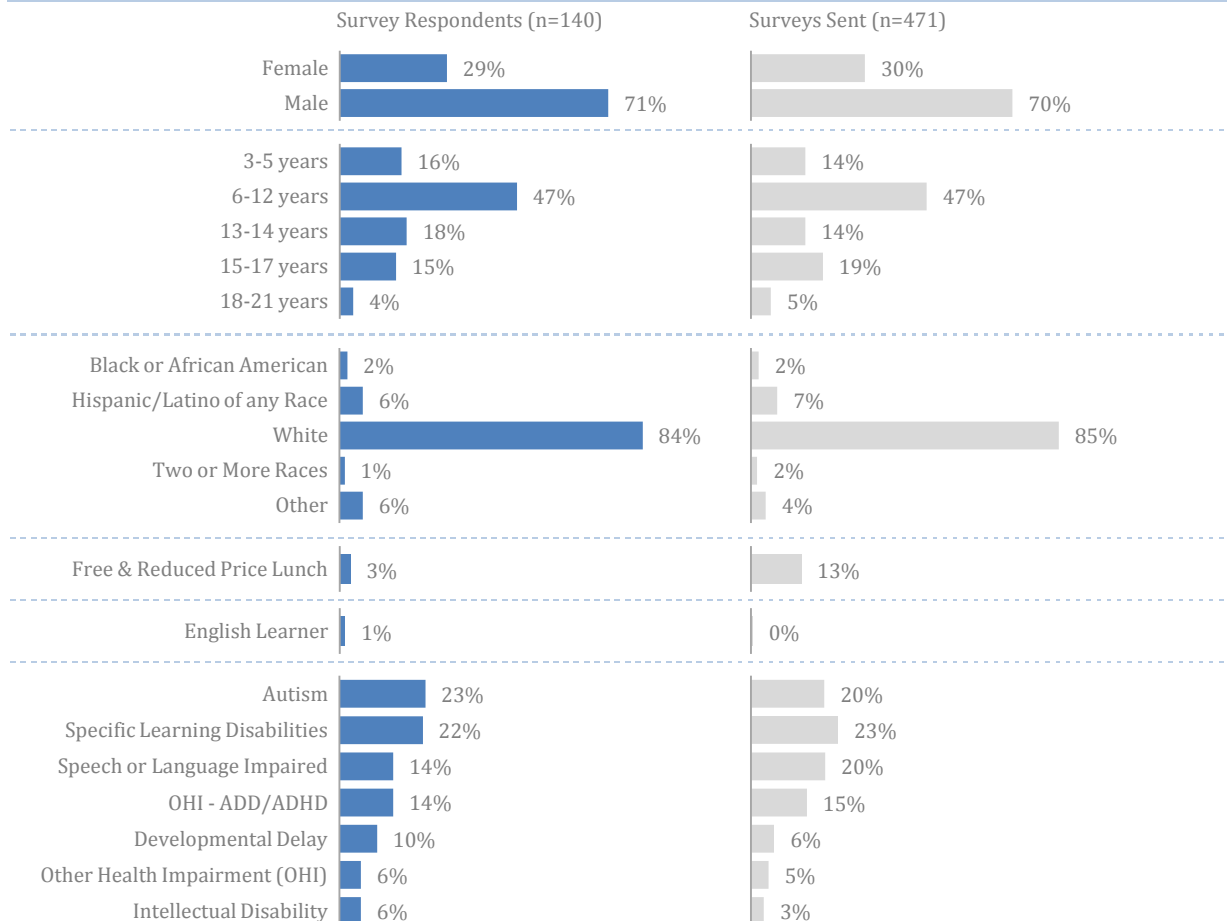


140 completed

57.1% Online

42.9% Paper

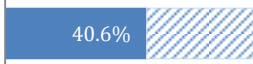
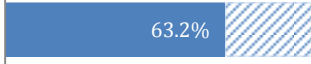


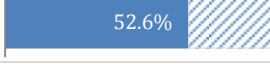
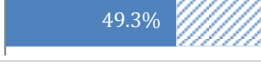

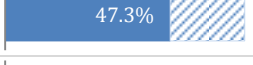
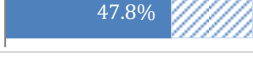

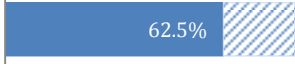

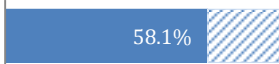


### CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS



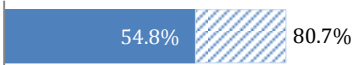
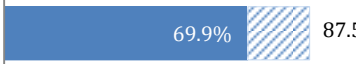



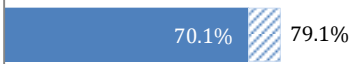
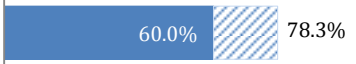
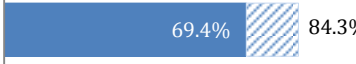






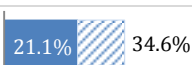

Note: The disabilities displayed are those that are 5% or greater in the survey respondent group or the survey sent group.



## SECTION II: SURVEY RESULTS

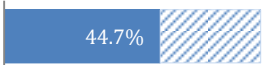
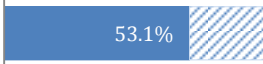







The 2014-15 survey included 38 items that asked parents to rate on a 6-point scale from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” their experiences with their child’s special education program over the past 12 months.<sup>5</sup> The following tables include bar charts that illustrate parents’ “high level of agreement” (i.e., strongly agree and moderately agree), as well as a column with the percentage to express “total agreement” (i.e., plus slightly agree). Only the agreement response options are included to allow for a quick visual comparison across survey items; however, all response options for the Newtown Nexus District are included in Appendix A.1.

	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
<i>Satisfaction with My Child’s Program</i>		
1. I am satisfied with my child’s overall special education program. [n=138]	 40.6% 71.7%	82.6%
2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child’s teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns. [n=136]	 63.2% 88.2%	94.9%
3. My child is accepted within the school community. [n=135]	 60.0% 83.7%	92.6%
4. My child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs. [n=138]	 39.1% 70.3%	84.1%
5. All special education services identified in my child’s IEP have been provided. [n=135]	 52.6% 77.8%	85.2%
6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child’s specific program and services. [n=136]	 49.3% 75.0%	84.6%
7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child’s IEP. [n=136]	 64.7% 82.4%	91.2%
8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child’s IEP. [n=131]	 47.3% 68.7%	80.9%
9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child’s IEP is being implemented. [n=134]	 47.8% 70.9%	82.8%
<i>Participation in My Child’s Program</i>		
10. In my child’s school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities. [n=138]	 42.0% 69.6%	83.3%
11. At meetings to develop my child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns. [n=136]	 62.5% 83.1%	91.2%
12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child’s IEP. [n=135]	 67.4% 87.4%	97.8%
13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child’s IEP. [n=136]	 58.1% 80.1%	91.2%
KEY:  Strongly Agree  Moderately Agree		

<sup>5</sup> Parents were given the option of selecting “don’t know” on 11 survey items (4-9, 21, 25, 28, 29 and 34). This should be considered when comparing agreement levels across items.



	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
<i>Participation in My Child's Program (Continued)</i>		
14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand. [n=135]	 54.8% 80.7%	91.1%
15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs. [n=136]	 69.9% 87.5%	91.2%
16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs. [n=138]	 50.0% 77.5%	84.1%
17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers. [n=134]	 46.3% 73.9%	88.8%
18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT. [n=136]	 78.7% 89.0%	94.1%
19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings. [n=67]	 70.1% 79.1%	91.0%
20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate. [n=60]	 60.0% 78.3%	90.0%
21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option. [n=134]	 69.4% 84.3%	85.8%
<i>My Child's Participation</i>		
22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties. [n=119]	 7.6%	9.2%
23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events). [n=136]	 86.0% 94.9%	96.3%
24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities. [n=127]	 76.4% 84.3%	88.2%
25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports). [n=122]	 36.9% 45.9%	50.8%
<i>Parent Training and Support</i>		
26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities. [n=119]	 20.2% 31.1%	42.9%
27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources. [n=117]	 17.9%	32.5%
28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district. [n=133]	 21.1% 34.6%	48.9%
29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources. [n=128]	 18.8% 26.6%	42.2%

KEY:  Strongly Agree  Moderately Agree

	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
<i>My Child's Skills</i>		
30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible. [n=132]		84.8%
31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job. [n=128]		85.2%
<i>Transition Planning</i>		
32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three. [n=18]		88.9%
33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child. [n=29]		69.0%
34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning. [n=29]		48.3%
35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood. [n=29]		58.6%
36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings. [n=30]		80.0%
37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child. [n=30]		73.3%
38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate. [n=28]		64.3%

Note: Respondents were instructed only to answer item 32 if their child had transitioned from the Birth to Three System to Preschool within the past three years, and only to answer items 33-38 if their child was 15 years of age or older at their last PPT meeting.

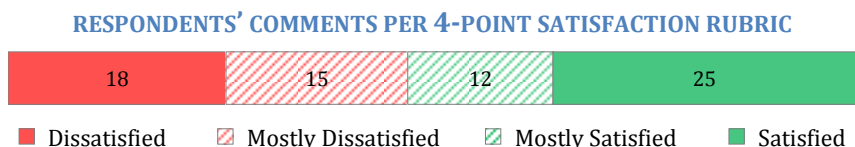
Due to limited space on the bar graphs, the data label for "strongly agree" is not included if it is less than 15%.

KEY:  Strongly Agree  Moderately Agree

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## SECTION III: PARENT COMMENTS

An open-ended section at the end of the survey asked parents to comment on their overall experience with their child's special education program. Of the 140 surveys completed by parents in the Newtown Nexus District, 50.0% (n=70) included written comments. The comments were classified according to a 4-point rubric: "1" if the comment conveyed complete dissatisfaction; "2" if mostly dissatisfied; "3" if mostly satisfied; and "4" if the comment conveyed complete satisfaction. The breakout along the 4-point rubric is provided below, followed by examples of parents' feedback.<sup>6</sup>



### COMMENTS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION

- I have been very pleased with the exceptional special education staff in Newtown. We are in our last year with the transition program at Newtown High School and are proud to have a thriving young adult.*
- We have had a great experience at school. All the teachers and staff are very involved, approachable, and want every child to succeed.*
- My son has had great success with his special education teachers. All of his teachers have been very good with him. The program has really helped with his confidence and progress to move forward.*
- I feel the team working with my child has gone above and beyond. I see him thriving and growing in his PreK environment.*
- The Newtown preschool program has gone above and beyond my expectations for my child's special education needs. I have an ongoing dialogue with all teachers/therapist and staff involved, and feel very accepted as an integrated part of the PPT team. I honestly feel blessed to be part of this school district.*
- The Newtown school system has done a tremendous job in educating my son and promoting inclusion for him in all the activities of his interest.*
- My child overall has had a good experience with his special education services. He liked the staff he worked with. They seemed to really help him.*
- I am extremely happy with services provided. All staff are supportive and more than willing to go the extra distance to not only teach but to care for my child. The school system and everyone has genuinely cared for my daughter and me. This is the way it is supposed to be.*
- The IEP staff has done an excellent job diagnosing and helping our son.*
- Awesome public schools – very helpful to us. We are happy with them.*
- We have had a very good experience thus far with the special education program. The teachers have been very supportive.*
- We were very happy with the staff at Middle Gate Elementary, the implementation of our son's IEP, and services he received.*
- We have been fortunate to have many talented service providers work with our son through the school system.*
- We moved from another district. I credit the special education staff at Reed Intermediate with encouraging my daughter to read more and giving her the decoding tools. I am so happy we got the opportunity to be here. For the first time, I see a bright future for my child.*
- We have a great case manager at Newtown High School who really knows my child and has his best interests in mind when planning for him.*

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<sup>6</sup> Comments are reported verbatim with the following exceptions: 1) comments received in Spanish were translated; 2) silent corrections were made to improve readability; and 3) all identifying information was removed to maintain respondent confidentiality. In some cases, multiple excerpts may have been taken from one or more respondents' comments.

## COMMENTS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION

- I find that I consistently and continually have to make sure the regular education classes are modified appropriately for my daughter and that appropriate accommodations are made. There needs to be more effective coordination between the special education staff and regular education staff in modifying assignments and tests. My experience has been that I need to be constantly involved and pushing for what is appropriate and helps my daughter meet her IEP goals. This starts from day one of the school year and continues throughout the year.*
- I had to suggest and press for a social skills program that is appropriate for my son. But, I am concerned about its implementation and scope. The school refused to place my son in classes that allow him to fully develop his strengths.*
- I have found Newtown schools, the special education teachers, and support staff to be surprisingly disappointing in the implementation of my son's IEP. We had numerous team meetings and PPTs to address areas they needed to improve upon and at times were out of compliance. The connection/communication between the special education and general education teachers was poor and the teachers were not made aware of the accommodations and modifications my son was supposed to have. Socially and emotionally this was the worst year my son has had due to the team he was placed with.*
- The past 12 months of PPT meetings for my child have been a nightmare. The meetings never start on time. The right people have never been to the meetings – they are always scrambling to find a fill in person who either doesn't know my child or doesn't know what is going on. At the meetings, my concerns are totally disregarded.*
- Administration needs training not only on laws pertaining to special education students, but also on how to interact with students who need services but don't always look like traditional special education students.*
- Special education teachers are not available to my child at the beginning of the school year. It has been at least two to three weeks before a special education teacher/program is available. That puts my son at an automatic deficit to his peers.*
- As the years went by the help provided for our child started to get less. At the high school level, they failed to prepare him for a good transition to post-secondary education, independent living, vocational, and most importantly socially. The high school never explored with him post-secondary transition programs, only the program offered at his high school.*
- Quite often, my child has missed time with his special education teacher because she had been pulled away for a meeting, or testing. Do those functions take priority over what is spelled out in the IEP? In addition, I find that the regular education teachers do not do a good job at following the IEPs at all. Accommodations that are supposed to be given in the classroom were quite often not met.*
- I felt that the level of education across the elementary schools is not consistent, and I wonder if each school has different levels of exceptions/standards. This past year, much of the communication was delayed or never received.*
- We have had great and terrible experiences over the years depending on the team assigned to my child. In the past, we were not included as members of the team. We have also experienced the school trying to pull services away without any data to show that the decision makes sense or any placement plan in place. Such efforts, if successful, would have set my son up for failure. Every year, I hold my breath that the people working with my son have his best interest at heart and are not simply punching a time clock and placating the administration.*
- As a general matter, the IEP was difficult to follow and understand both because of its format and the way the contents were phrased or described. Therefore, it was difficult to follow and comprehend, particularly when it comes to being able to understand its implementation in practical terms. The special education program's purposes are too narrowly and rigidly laid out and as a result lack the necessary flexibility to meet the needs of the particular child.*
- The only people who get services are the pushy educated parents who won't take no for an answer and have the time and the stomach to fight the schools, day after day, year after year, for pretty subpar services. Most people give up, especially since the teachers are barred from suggesting testing to anyone. Until Newtown has an affirmative duty to identify and help special needs kids, until there is better training and accountability, and until there is meaningful funding – nothing will change.*
- Newtown's special education program is deplorable. The administration is just going through the motions and filling out the paperwork to make it appear as if they are following the laws. However, when it comes to providing a service or "plan" that is helpful, they clearly do not grasp the nature of the disability.*
- At PPTs, the focus seems to be on how to reduce services, rather than how to help our son reach his full potential.*
- I feel that I am hardly ever told how or what I can do to support what my daughter is learning/working on at school. I have never received any information that there is the possibility of assistance for extra-curricular activities, or any offered by the schools that would be able to accommodate her.*

## **APPENDIX A | NEWTOWN SURVEY FINDINGS**

### **A.1 | SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE**

### **A.2 | BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS**

## APPENDIX A.1: NEWTOWN SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

	n	DISAGREE			AGREE			Don't Know	TOTALS		HIGH LEVEL AGREE
		Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly		DISAGREE	AGREE	
1. I am satisfied with my child's overall special education program.	138	14.5%	2.2%	0.7%	10.9%	31.2%	40.6%	±	17.4%	82.6%	71.7%
2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns.	136	2.2%	0.7%	2.2%	6.6%	25.0%	63.2%	±	5.1%	94.9%	88.2%
3. My child is accepted within the school community.	135	2.2%	3.0%	2.2%	8.9%	23.7%	60.0%	±	7.4%	92.6%	83.7%
4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs.	138	10.1%	1.4%	2.2%	13.8%	31.2%	39.1%	2.2%	13.8%	84.1%	70.3%
5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided.	135	8.9%	3.7%	1.5%	7.4%	25.2%	52.6%	0.7%	14.1%	85.2%	77.8%
6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services.	136	9.6%	0.7%	0.7%	9.6%	25.7%	49.3%	4.4%	11.0%	84.6%	75.0%
7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	136	5.1%	1.5%	0.0%	8.8%	17.6%	64.7%	2.2%	6.6%	91.2%	82.4%
8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	131	5.3%	5.3%	3.1%	12.2%	21.4%	47.3%	5.3%	13.7%	80.9%	68.7%
9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented.	134	8.2%	3.0%	0.7%	11.9%	23.1%	47.8%	5.2%	11.9%	82.8%	70.9%
10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities.	138	8.0%	2.2%	6.5%	13.8%	27.5%	42.0%	±	16.7%	83.3%	69.6%
11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns.	136	4.4%	2.2%	2.2%	8.1%	20.6%	62.5%	±	8.8%	91.2%	83.1%
12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP.	135	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	10.4%	20.0%	67.4%	±	2.2%	97.8%	87.4%
13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP.	136	3.7%	2.9%	2.2%	11.0%	22.1%	58.1%	±	8.8%	91.2%	80.1%
14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand.	135	1.5%	2.2%	5.2%	10.4%	25.9%	54.8%	±	8.9%	91.1%	80.7%
15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs.	136	4.4%	0.0%	4.4%	3.7%	17.6%	69.9%	±	8.8%	91.2%	87.5%
16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs.	138	8.0%	3.6%	4.3%	6.5%	27.5%	50.0%	±	15.9%	84.1%	77.5%
17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers.	134	5.2%	2.2%	3.7%	14.9%	27.6%	46.3%	±	11.2%	88.8%	73.9%
18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT.	136	1.5%	1.5%	2.9%	5.1%	10.3%	78.7%	±	5.9%	94.1%	89.0%
19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings.	67	6.0%	1.5%	1.5%	11.9%	9.0%	70.1%	±	9.0%	91.0%	79.1%
20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate.	60	8.3%	0.0%	1.7%	11.7%	18.3%	60.0%	±	10.0%	90.0%	78.3%
21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option.	134	3.7%	2.2%	0.7%	1.5%	14.9%	69.4%	7.5%	6.7%	85.8%	84.3%

Table is continued on the next page.

## APPENDIX A.1: NEWTOWN SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE (CONTINUED)

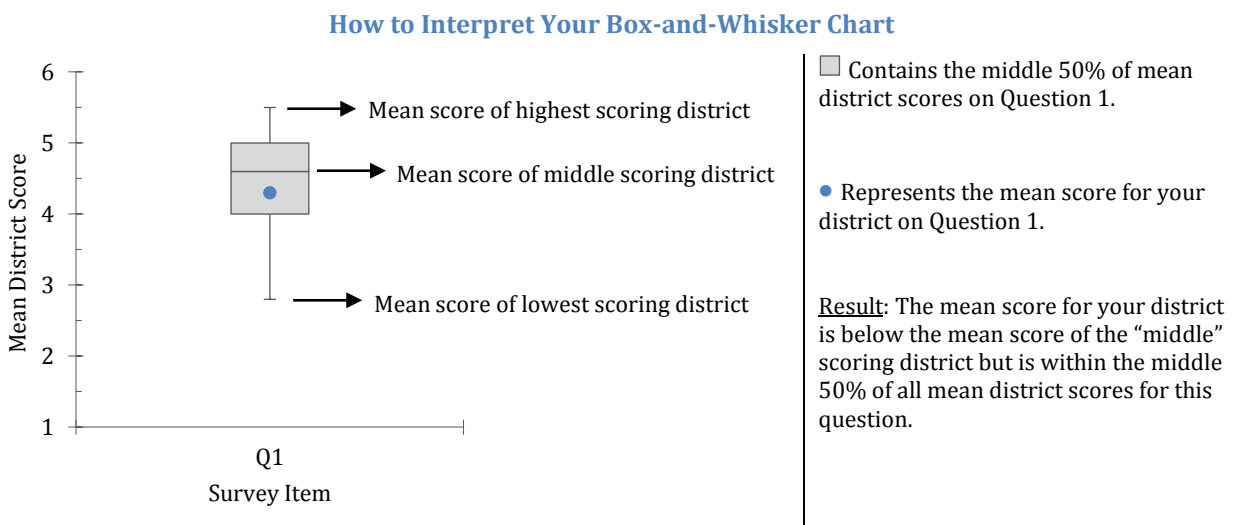
	n	DISAGREE			AGREE			Don't Know	TOTALS		HIGH LEVEL AGREE
		Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly		DISAGREE	AGREE	
22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties.	119	86.6%	3.4%	0.8%	1.7%	0.8%	6.7%	±	90.8%	9.2%	7.6%
23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events).	136	2.2%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%	8.8%	86.0%	±	3.7%	96.3%	94.9%
24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities.	127	6.3%	3.9%	1.6%	3.9%	7.9%	76.4%	±	11.8%	88.2%	84.3%
25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports).	122	10.7%	1.6%	3.3%	4.9%	9.0%	36.9%	33.6%	15.6%	50.8%	45.9%
26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts, or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities.	119	40.3%	8.4%	8.4%	11.8%	10.9%	20.2%	±	57.1%	42.9%	31.1%
27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources.	117	51.3%	7.7%	8.5%	14.5%	7.7%	10.3%	±	67.5%	32.5%	17.9%
28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district.	133	15.0%	5.3%	7.5%	14.3%	13.5%	21.1%	23.3%	27.8%	48.9%	34.6%
29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources.	128	19.5%	3.1%	2.3%	15.6%	7.8%	18.8%	32.8%	25.0%	42.2%	26.6%
30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible.	132	8.3%	4.5%	2.3%	11.4%	28.8%	44.7%	±	15.2%	84.8%	73.5%
31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job.	128	7.8%	3.9%	3.1%	7.0%	25.0%	53.1%	±	14.8%	85.2%	78.1%
Only complete the following question if your child has transitioned from the early intervention Birth to Three System to Preschool in the past 3 years.											
32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three.	18	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	66.7%	±	11.1%	88.9%	88.9%
Only complete the following questions if your child was 15 years of age or older at his/her last PPT meeting.											
33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child.	29	31.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	24.1%	34.5%	±	31.0%	69.0%	58.6%
34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning.	29	20.7%	3.4%	0.0%	10.3%	20.7%	17.2%	27.6%	24.1%	48.3%	37.9%
35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood.	29	31.0%	6.9%	3.4%	10.3%	27.6%	20.7%	±	41.4%	58.6%	48.3%
36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings.	30	13.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	13.3%	63.3%	±	20.0%	80.0%	76.7%
37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child.	30	13.3%	10.0%	3.3%	3.3%	26.7%	43.3%	±	26.7%	73.3%	70.0%
38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate.	28	25.0%	7.1%	3.6%	3.6%	21.4%	39.3%	±	35.7%	64.3%	60.7%

Note: High level agree = "moderately agree" + "strongly agree."

± Not a response option for this survey item.

## APPENDIX A.2: NEWTOWN BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS

The following box-and-whisker charts provide a visual snapshot (by survey item) of your district's mean score relative to the mean score of all other districts participating in the survey.<sup>7</sup> The mean district score represents the average parent response scaled from 1="strongly disagree" to 6="strongly agree."<sup>8</sup> An illustration of how to interpret your box-and-whisker charts is provided in the following diagram. A box for each survey item contains the middle 50% of districts and the median (middle) district score is represented by a black line within the box.<sup>9</sup> The "whiskers" on the box represent the minimum and maximum mean scores across all districts and your individual district is represented by a round dot (●). Thus, if your mean district score was inside the box, it would be considered an average rating; if your mean district score was in the lower "whisker," it would be considered a below average rating; and if your mean district score was in the upper "whisker," it would be considered an above average rating. Mean district scores were not calculated when five or fewer respondents in the district answered an item. If this was true of your district, a round dot (●) will be missing for those items.<sup>10</sup>



Note: The mean district score represents the average response scaled from 1="strongly disagree" to 6="strongly agree."

<sup>7</sup> Survey responses from 11 districts were excluded due to the CSDE standard (n=20) for confidential reporting of district-level data.

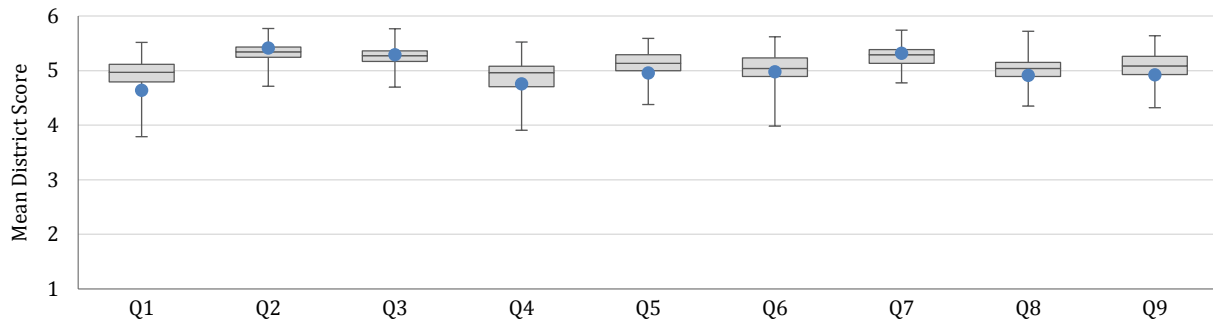
<sup>8</sup> The response option of "don't know" was not included in the calculation of the mean score, as there is no intuitive ordering for this response.

<sup>9</sup> Survey item 22 is negatively keyed (i.e., strongly agree is equivalent to a high level of dissatisfaction); therefore, this item was excluded from the analysis to maintain a consistent interpretation of mean scores.

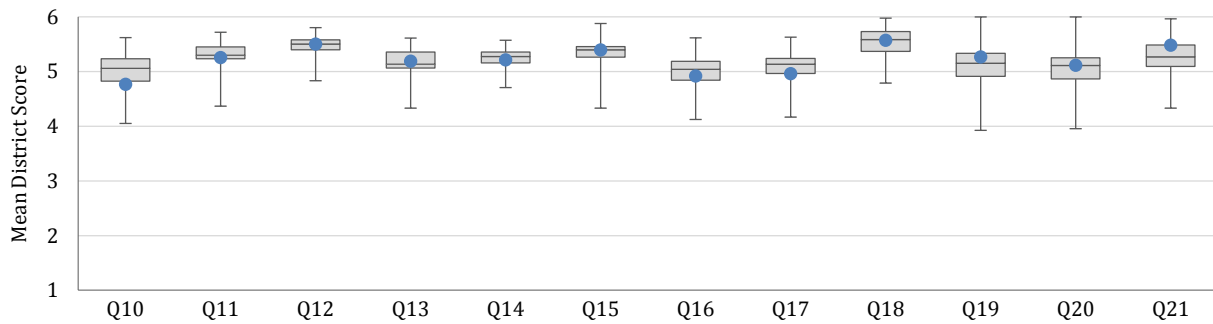
<sup>10</sup> A substantial number of districts had five or fewer respondents on the transition planning items. As a result, 15 districts were excluded from calculations for survey item 32 and seven districts were excluded from calculations for survey items 33-38.

## APPENDIX A.2: NEWTOWN BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS (CONTINUED)

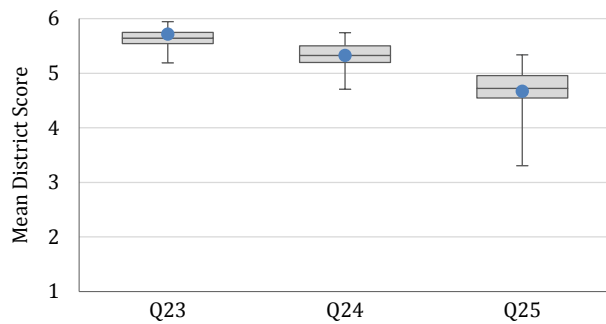
**SATISFACTION WITH MY CHILD'S PROGRAM**



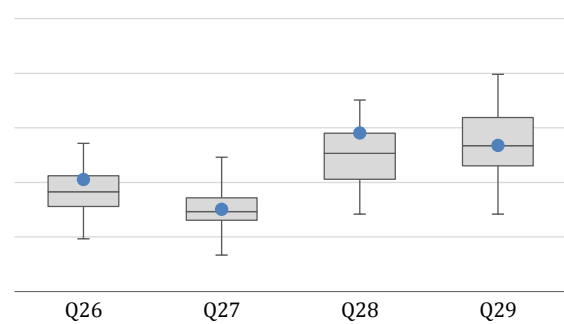
**PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING MY CHILD'S PROGRAM**



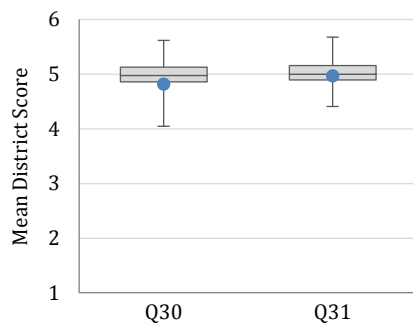
**MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION**



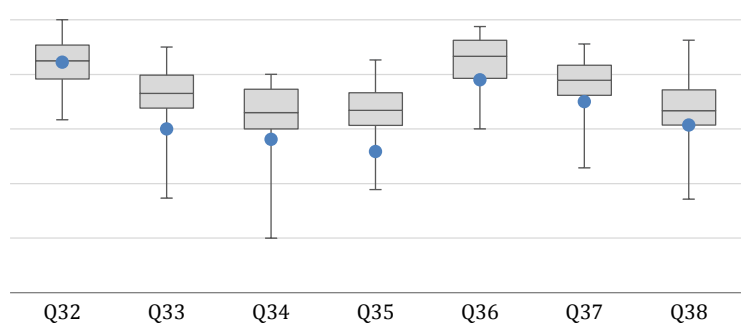
**PARENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT**



**MY CHILD'S SKILLS**



**TRANSITION PLANNING**



## **APPENDIX B | STATEWIDE RESULTS**

### **B.1 | RESPONSE RATE BY DISTRICT**

### **B.2 | STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE**

## APPENDIX B.1: RESPONSE RATE BY DISTRICT

Nexus District	Surveys Sent	Surveys Received	Response Rate
Eastford	27	16	59.3%
Rocky Hill	272	103	37.9%
Region 15	538	203	37.7%
Region 13	286	106	37.1%
Marlborough	56	19	33.9%
New Hartford	59	20	33.9%
Sherman	74	24	32.4%
Litchfield	123	39	31.7%
New Canaan	417	127	30.5%
Region 8	222	67	30.2%
Southington*	627	189	30.1%
Sterling	80	24	30.0%
Newtown	471	140	29.7%
Barkhamsted	45	13	28.9%
Simsbury	612	175	28.6%
Bolton	95	27	28.4%
West Hartford*	821	231	28.1%
Region 14	180	50	27.8%
Hebron	126	34	27.0%
Bozrah	38	10	26.3%
East Haddam	179	47	26.3%
Wallingford*	568	146	25.7%
Glastonbury*	508	130	25.6%
New Fairfield	261	66	25.3%
Region 16	340	86	25.3%
Granby	218	55	25.2%
Region 18	184	46	25.0%
Thomaston	157	39	24.8%
Wethersfield	568	138	24.3%

Nexus District	Surveys Sent	Surveys Received	Response Rate
Region 17	340	80	23.5%
East Lyme	366	85	23.2%
Bethel	338	78	23.1%
East Windsor	231	48	20.8%
Region 7	116	23	19.8%
Madison	384	74	19.3%
Andover	21	4	19.0%
Naugatuck*	530	96	18.1%
Stamford*	1,044	189	18.1%
Windsor	633	113	17.9%
Preston	113	18	15.9%
Plymouth	253	40	15.8%
Meriden*	950	143	15.1%
East Hampton	178	26	14.6%
Norfolk	21	3	14.3%
Montville	336	46	13.7%
Cromwell	242	33	13.6%
Enfield*	613	79	12.9%
West Haven*	736	95	12.9%
Putnam	196	25	12.8%
Colebrook	24	3	12.5%
Plainfield	308	37	12.0%
Norwich*	694	78	11.2%
Voluntown	65	7	10.8%
Hartford*	1,481	152	10.3%
USD 1	184	18	9.8%
USD 2	85	2	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,634</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>21.3%</b>

Note: Districts are sorted in descending order based on their response rate.

A (\*) indicates that in this district, a simple random sample of parents of children with an IEP or Services Plan were selected to receive the survey. A confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 2% were used to determine the sample size.

## APPENDIX B.2: STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

	n	DISAGREE			AGREE			Don't Know	TOTALS		HIGH LEVEL AGREE
		Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly		DISAGREE	AGREE	
1. I am satisfied with my child's overall special education program.	3,928	5.8%	3.6%	3.1%	9.3%	32.6%	45.6%	±	12.5%	87.5%	78.2%
2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns.	3,921	2.2%	1.9%	2.7%	8.9%	24.6%	59.8%	±	6.7%	93.3%	84.4%
3. My child is accepted within the school community.	3,908	2.5%	2.5%	3.3%	8.0%	23.8%	60.0%	±	8.3%	91.7%	83.8%
4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs.	3,948	5.9%	4.0%	4.1%	10.4%	30.3%	44.8%	0.6%	13.9%	85.5%	75.1%
5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided.	3,904	4.1%	3.4%	3.6%	8.0%	26.2%	53.2%	1.5%	11.1%	87.4%	79.4%
6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services.	3,902	4.9%	3.6%	3.6%	8.6%	25.1%	52.1%	2.1%	12.1%	85.8%	77.2%
7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	3,895	2.5%	2.4%	2.6%	8.1%	23.3%	58.5%	2.5%	7.6%	89.9%	81.8%
8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	3,865	4.0%	3.3%	4.2%	11.8%	24.6%	46.8%	5.2%	11.6%	83.2%	71.4%
9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented.	3,864	3.6%	3.2%	3.8%	10.9%	23.5%	50.1%	4.9%	10.6%	84.5%	73.6%
10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities.	3,940	4.5%	2.9%	4.5%	13.3%	23.5%	51.3%	±	11.9%	88.1%	74.8%
11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns.	3,920	3.1%	2.7%	2.8%	7.4%	19.3%	64.8%	±	8.5%	91.5%	84.1%
12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP.	3,914	1.3%	1.1%	2.3%	5.7%	22.8%	66.8%	±	4.6%	95.4%	89.6%
13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP.	3,892	3.7%	2.7%	3.6%	8.5%	24.0%	57.5%	±	10.0%	90.0%	81.5%
14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand.	3,892	2.2%	2.4%	3.3%	9.6%	25.8%	56.7%	±	7.9%	92.1%	82.5%
15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs.	3,913	2.4%	2.0%	3.3%	6.6%	20.8%	64.9%	±	7.8%	92.2%	85.7%
16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs.	3,935	4.3%	4.1%	4.3%	11.4%	25.8%	50.2%	±	12.6%	87.4%	76.0%
17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers.	3,901	3.5%	3.0%	4.6%	10.9%	23.4%	54.6%	±	11.2%	88.8%	77.9%
18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT.	3,897	2.3%	1.5%	1.8%	4.1%	14.0%	76.3%	±	5.6%	94.4%	90.3%
19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings.	2,339	10.2%	0.8%	2.0%	7.8%	12.6%	66.6%	±	13.0%	87.0%	79.2%
20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate.	2,192	10.8%	0.8%	2.3%	8.9%	14.6%	62.6%	±	13.8%	86.2%	77.2%
21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option.	3,830	5.6%	2.0%	2.0%	4.3%	15.0%	63.1%	8.1%	9.5%	82.3%	78.1%

Table is continued on the next page.

## APPENDIX B.2: STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE (CONTINUED)

	n	DISAGREE			AGREE			Don't Know	TOTALS		HIGH LEVEL AGREE
		Strongly	Moderately	Slightly	Slightly	Moderately	Strongly		DISAGREE	AGREE	
22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties.	3,312	75.2%	5.0%	1.8%	3.2%	4.5%	10.3%	±	81.9%	18.1%	14.9%
23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events).	3,882	2.4%	1.1%	1.2%	3.5%	10.3%	81.5%	±	4.7%	95.3%	91.8%
24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities.	3,780	6.0%	1.7%	2.7%	5.0%	11.0%	73.6%	±	10.4%	89.6%	84.6%
25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports).	3,609	9.5%	2.5%	3.5%	6.8%	12.6%	40.1%	25.0%	15.5%	59.5%	52.7%
26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts, or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities.	3,502	46.1%	6.9%	7.3%	9.4%	10.3%	20.1%	±	60.3%	39.7%	30.3%
27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources.	3,421	52.6%	7.3%	7.9%	9.2%	8.7%	14.2%	±	67.8%	32.2%	23.0%
28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district.	3,753	17.6%	4.6%	5.8%	9.5%	11.9%	18.4%	32.2%	28.0%	39.8%	30.3%
29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources.	3,700	14.7%	4.4%	5.2%	8.7%	10.5%	20.2%	36.2%	24.4%	39.4%	30.7%
30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible.	3,834	4.8%	4.2%	4.4%	10.4%	25.2%	51.0%	±	13.4%	86.6%	76.2%
31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job.	3,735	5.7%	3.2%	4.0%	10.7%	22.5%	53.8%	±	12.9%	87.1%	76.4%
Only complete the following question if your child has transitioned from the early intervention Birth to Three System to Preschool in the past 3 years.											
32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three.	543	8.3%	1.8%	2.4%	6.8%	15.3%	65.4%	±	12.5%	87.5%	80.7%
Only complete the following questions if your child was 15 years of age or older at his/her last PPT meeting.											
33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child.	917	10.3%	5.3%	6.4%	12.0%	26.8%	39.1%	±	22.0%	78.0%	66.0%
34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning.	848	13.0%	4.1%	5.5%	9.3%	13.1%	28.1%	26.9%	22.6%	50.5%	41.2%
35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood.	893	13.5%	6.6%	7.1%	11.8%	25.3%	35.7%	±	27.2%	72.8%	61.0%
36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings.	911	5.9%	1.4%	2.6%	7.5%	18.4%	64.1%	±	10.0%	90.0%	82.5%
37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child.	907	7.8%	4.3%	4.6%	9.7%	25.0%	48.5%	±	16.8%	83.2%	73.5%
38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate.	887	15.2%	5.2%	6.1%	14.1%	23.3%	36.1%	±	26.5%	73.5%	59.4%

Note: High level agree = "moderately agree" + "strongly agree."

± Not a response option for this survey item.